

# News Release

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## **City of Riverside provides CNG alternative fuel station**

**RIVERSIDE, Calif.** – The City of Riverside has seen a sharp increase in demand for compressed natural gas (CNG) as growing numbers of businesses, school districts and consumers invest in alternative energy vehicles.

“Demand is exceeding our projections,” said Martin L. Bowman, Operations Manager for Riverside’s Fleet Division, adding that one third of the 60,000 gallons of CNG sold monthly by the city is being consumed by non-city vehicles.

CNG typically costs about 70 to 75 cents per gallon less than gasoline. It is available 24/7 at the city’s alternative fuel island at 8095 Lincoln Avenue.

Bowman said the increase in demand was sparked by record gasoline and diesel fuel costs last summer, which prompted businesses and consumers and public agencies to step up their investments in affordable alternative energy vehicles.

Businesses with increased investments in alternative energy vehicles include AT&T, which deployed seven CNG vans in the Riverside area last summer, according to company spokesman James Peterson.

Burrtec Waste Industries Inc., for its part, operates eight CNG trash trucks in the Riverside area, including three for residential collection and five for commercial collection, said Richard Niño, Burrtec’s director of municipal services, adding that the company also has 22 vehicles that use liquid natural gas.

Meanwhile, public agencies are also stepping up their investments in alternative energy vehicles, including the Riverside Unified School District. “Of our 75 transit buses, 41 are CNG. The rest are clean diesel buses,” said Mike Fine, the district’s superintendent for business services and government relations.

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Riverside opened its fueling station for CNG in January 2004 to support the replacement of the city's older gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles with alternative energy vehicles and to provide the necessary infrastructure to support increased use of alternative energy vehicles by local residents, businesses and other public agencies.

Fifty-four percent of the city's vehicles are now alternative energy vehicles, with most using CNG. A small number of city fleet vehicles are powered by liquid propane gas (LPG) and electricity. Fourteen percent of the city's fleet are hybrid vehicles.

Bowman said he designed Riverside's fueling station to serve the city's long-term needs, and it remains one of California's largest CNG facilities. The city's fleet includes equipment and vehicles using CNG, LPG, electricity and particulate traps in conjunction with ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel. However, only CNG is available to the public.

For more information on the city's alternative fuel program, visit [www.riversideca.gov/genserv/cng.htm](http://www.riversideca.gov/genserv/cng.htm).

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Established in 1895, Riverside Public Utilities is a consumer-owned water and electric utility governed by a board of nine community volunteers that provides high quality, reliable services to over 107,000 metered electric customers and 63,400 metered water customers throughout the City of Riverside. The Utility is committed to increased use of renewable energy resources and sustainable living practices that help reduce environmental impacts within the City of Riverside and the state of California.

[www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com](http://www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com)

[www.GreenRiverside.com](http://www.GreenRiverside.com)

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